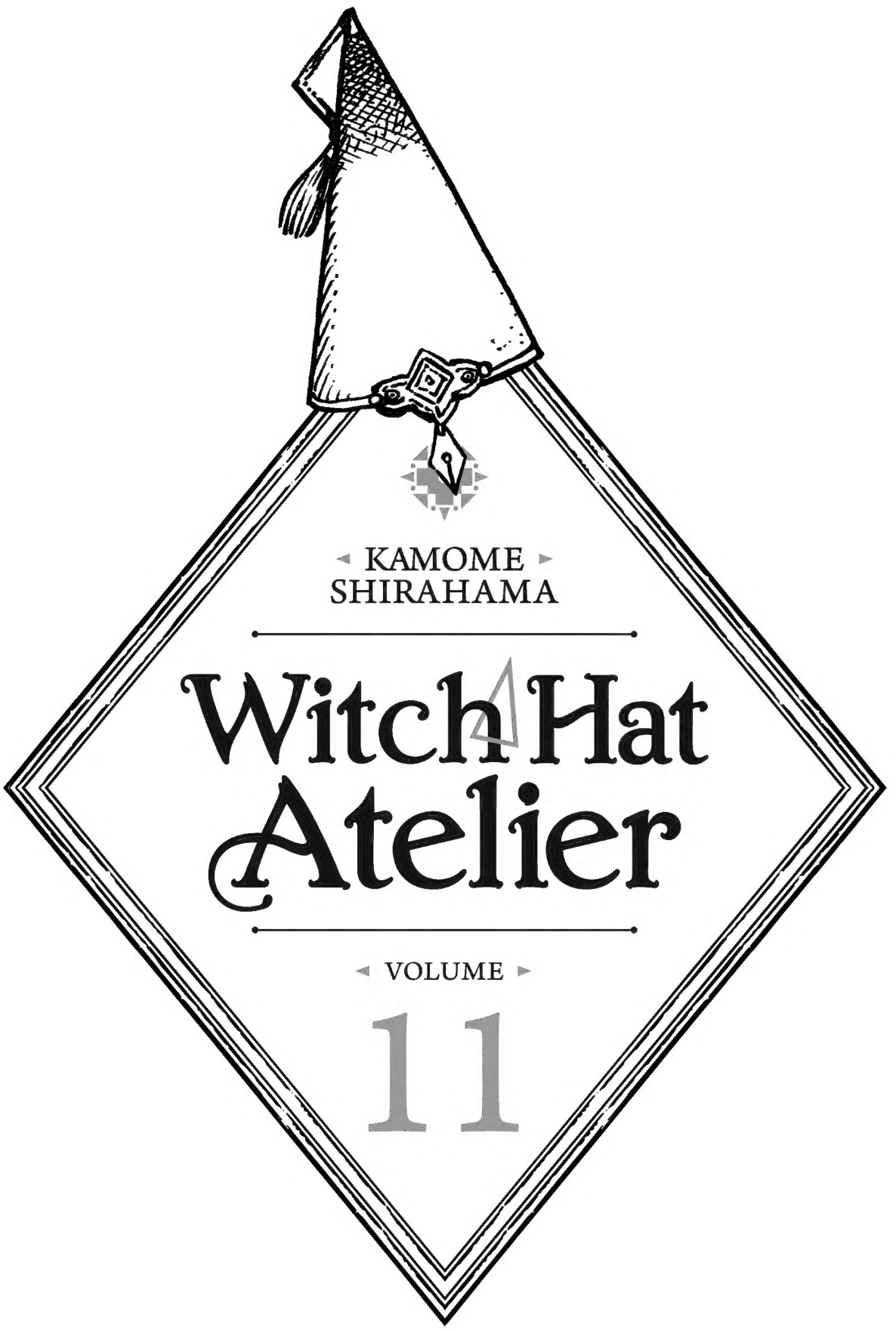
Will Eisner
COMIC INDUSTRY
AWARDS
WINNER

HARVEY AWARDS
WINNER

KAMOME
SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

VOLUME
11



KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

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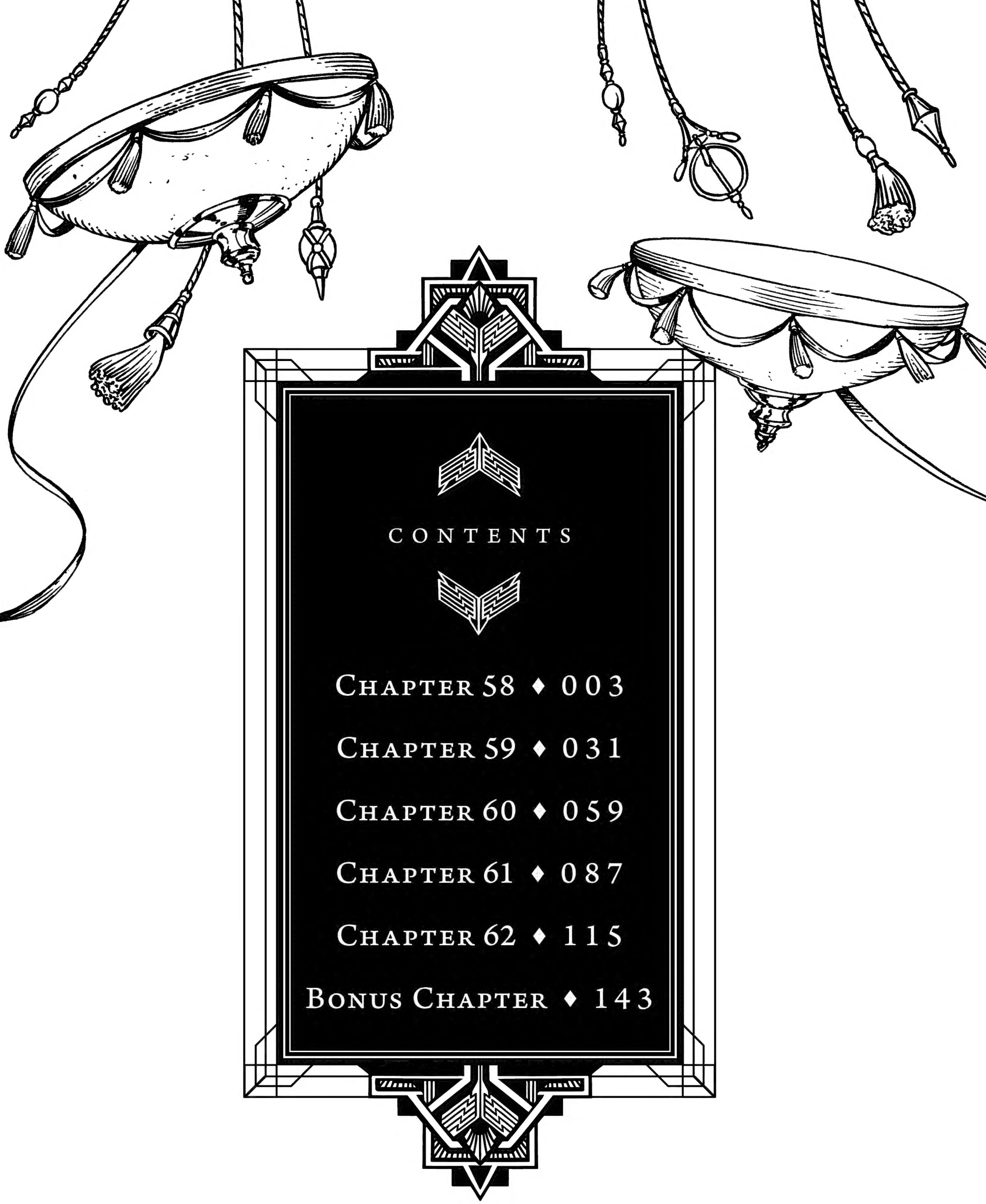

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WITCH HAT ATELIER

♦

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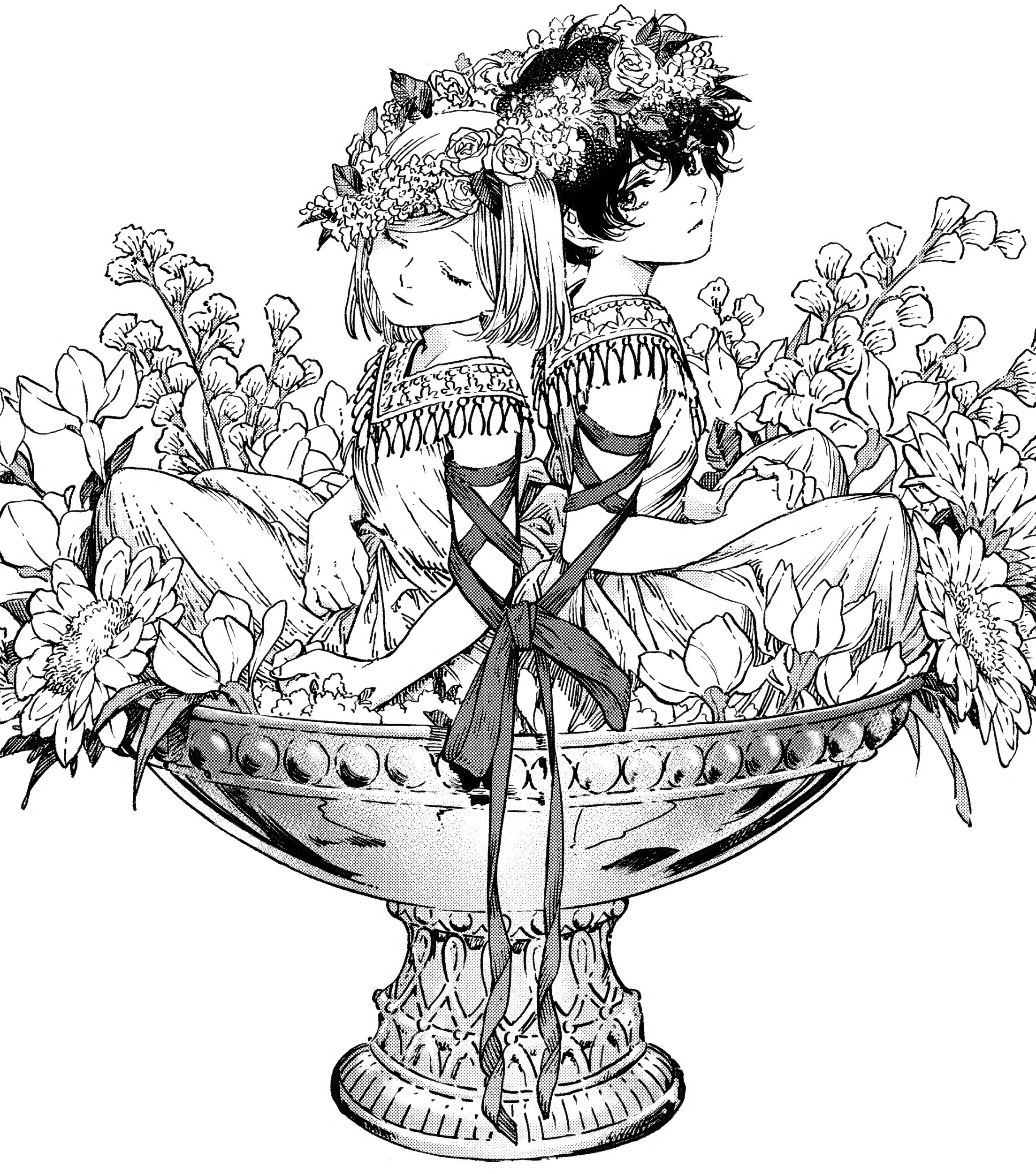
Chapter 58



WHAT SHOULD I DO, AGOTT...?

GWIP

I CAN'T DRAW SPELLS ANYMORE!

IT'S...

IT'S JUST...

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU *CAN'T?*

WH...

IF I'M GONNA MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PROCESSION...

...I HAVE TO COME UP WITH A WHOLE NEW SPELL, AND I HAVE TO DO IT *FAST!*

BUT THE HARDER I TRY, THE LESS PROGRESS I MAKE!

ERM...

I'LL GET A FEW LINES INTO A NEW SEAL AND ALREADY KNOW IT ISN'T THE ONE...

...SO I'LL TRY SOMETHING ELSE, ONLY TO FIND *THAT* DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, EITHER!

NRMM...

THEN I PONDER IF I SHOULD RETURN TO MY PREVIOUS DRAFT! BUT WHEN I CHANGE IT AGAIN...

...IT'S STILL NOT RIGHT! I'VE BEEN GOING BACK AND FORTH, OVER AND OVER!

GRMMMM...

SO I PULL OUT A FRESH SHEET AND SIT THERE STARING AT IT, AND BEFORE I KNOW IT, THE CLOCK'S SPUN AROUND AGAIN.

THE MORE IDEAS I TRY TO SQUEEZE OUT OF MY BRAIN, THE FEWER COME OUT!

GUHHHH!

HEAP こんもり～

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, AGOTT!

I'M TRYING AS HARD AS I CAN, BUT NOTHING'S WORKING!

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T DRAW SPELLS ANYMORE, YET HERE YOU ARE HOLDING A STACK OF 'EM!

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE CHANCE TO BE IN THE PROCESSION.

WHAT IF I...

WHAT SHOULD I DO? I HAVE TO GET PAST THIS.

PHEW. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT SHE MEANT...

*...SHE'D LOST THE ART **COMPLETELY.** IF THIS IS ALL IT IS, SHE CAN WORK IT OUT ON HER OWN.*

...I LOSE *EVERYTHING* AND CAN'T EVEN BE A WITCH ANYMORE?!

UM... YOU DO REALIZE—

...!

IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING IT, WHY NOT GET SOME SLEEP AND TRY AGAIN IN THE MORNING?

IT'S NOTHING.

F... FORGET IT!

...?

ERM...!

YEAH. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, AGOTT. NO REASON TO START HANDING OUT ADVICE.

SHE NEEDS TO FIGURE THIS OUT FOR HERSELF. IT'LL BE GOOD FOR HER.

IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.

AND BESIDES...

...

...THAT'S ONE LESS WITCH I HAVE TO CONTEND WITH AT THE PROCESSION!

WHY AM I ALWAYS LIKE THIS?!

OH.

AND BESIDES,

IF SHE **DOESN'T** GET OVER IT IN TIME...

...AND FAILS TO COME UP WITH A NEW SPELL...

OH, NO.

WHAT AM I THINKING?

COCO MAKES EVERY-ONE...

...LOOK HER WAY, NO MATTER WHAT SHE'S DOING.

SHE HASN'T EVEN MADE IT PAST THE BASICS.

THE SPELLS SHE DRAWS AREN'T TECHNICAL OR CHALLENGING.

AND YET... SHE FINDS SOLUTIONS I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

SOLUTIONS I **WISH** I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

IF I LET HER BE, MAYBE SHE'LL SINK INTO DESPAIR...

...AND FINALLY VANISH FROM MY WORLD.

I'D HAVE ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

ONE LESS THING TYING MY MIND UP IN ENDLESS KNOTS.

I'D BE FREE TO CONCENTRATE ON MY **OWN** MAGIC.

AND THEN...

AND THEN...

SHUFF

ZWSH

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

YOU'RE A *DUMMY*, AGOTT! JUST A BIG, OLD *DUMMY!*

BUT IT'S SOMETHING WE *ALL* DEAL WITH! *ALL* THE TIME!

...WHO'S BEEN THROUGH THIS.

YOU MIGHT *THINK* YOU'RE THE ONLY WITCH...

YOU KNOW WHAT, COCO?!

YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!

IT MOST *DEFINITELY* IS!

HUH?!

IT... IT IS?!

OR WHEN YOUR HEAD'S FULL OF TOO MANY IDEAS, AND IT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE TO PICK ONE AND GET ON WITH IT!

OR WHEN YOU SUDDENLY GET SELF-CONSCIOUS OF HOW AWFUL YOUR DRAWINGS REALLY ARE!

LIKE WHEN YOU HIT A DEAD END BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TRY, IT JUST DOESN'T COME OUT RIGHT!

OR WHEN YOUR DRAWING HAND FREEZES UP FROM THE PRESSURE AND THE NERVES, AND YOU CAN'T FIND THE CONFIDENCE TO TAKE BACK CONTROL!

OR WHEN YOU'RE SO DESPERATE TO GET SOMETHING DOWN ON PAPER, THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN GET STARTED!

OR WHEN LIFE THROWS OTHER PROBLEMS AT YOU, AND SPELLS ARE THE LAST THING ON YOUR MIND!

OR YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT! OR EATEN!

OR WHEN YOU'RE SO RUSHED YOU CAN'T FOCUS!

I GET STUCK AND FIND MYSELF UNABLE TO DRAW ALL THE TIME.

IT... IT HAPPENS TO *ME*, TOO.

HFF...

HFF...

STAAARE

ぽかん

I MEAN, EVERY WITCH HAS HER OWN SET OF TROUBLES, BUT...

MAYBE NOT FOR THE EXACT SAME REASONS AS YOU.

THE FACT IS, SOMETIMES THE YOU WHO *WANTS* TO SIT DOWN AND CREATE...

...GETS UNDERMINED BY THE YOU WHO CAN'T SEEM TO PICK UP THE PEN.

AGOTT!

WELL... YOU KNOW!

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

IS...

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP GOING.

TELL ME IT'LL BE OKAY. THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT.

...!

WELL IT SOUNDS TO *ME* LIKE YOU GOT THE MESSAGE!

'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW IT'S TRUE UNLESS I HEAR YOU *SAY* IT.

WE SHOULDN'T DISTURB TETIA AND RICHEH. THEY NEED THEIR SLEEP.

THANK YOU.

I'M FEELING A LITTLE BETTER.

BUT NOT *ALL* BETTER, HUH?

FLUMP

YOU DO, TOO. BUT IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING TIRED, HOW ABOUT A WALK?

I DUNNO ABOUT YOU, BUT I COULD USE A LITTLE NIGHT AIR.

SLINK

GAB

GAB

HEY, COCO?

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S FOR A FRIEND WHO NEEDS MY HELP.

OH, UM...

HOW COME YOU WANT TO JOIN THE PROCESSION ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I'LL ASK IF MAYBE HE CAN DO SOMETHING TO SAVE MY FRIEND... AND MY FRIEND'S *FATHER*, TOO.

AND IF THAT HAPPENS, I WANT TO ASK THE KING FOR A FAVOR.

HE SAYS IF I MANAGE TO SELL MY SPELL IN THE PROCESSION...

...I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK IN PERSON WITH THE KING OF THE WHOLE PENINSULA.

...YOU SEEM TO BE DOING IT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE?

WHY IS IT THAT WHEN-EVER YOU DRAW...

EVERY TIME I SEE YOU CASTING...

...IT'S ALWAYS TO HELP OTHERS.

YOU MIGHT NOT REALIZE IT YOURSELF...

...BUT IT'S TRUE.

I KNOW THIS...

...BECAUSE I'M THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

COCO?

IF YOU'RE STUCK ON A CREATION MEANT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE...

...WHY NOT SET IT ASIDE...

...FOR A TINY BIT...

...AND INSTEAD CRAFT A FEW SPELLS JUST FOR *YOU?*

SPELLS FOR MYSELF?

HERE. THESE ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITE SEALS.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE SIGNS. PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?

THIS ONE REPRESENTS A DRAGON. THIS ONE'S A LIONGOAT.

OVER HERE'S A TORCHSTAG. AND THAT'S A SCALEWOLF.

SIGNS LIKE THESE ARE DECORATIVE. THEY GIVE SPELLS THE ROUGH SHAPE OF THE CREATURES THEY'RE NAMED AFTER.

SO THEY'RE NOT SEEN MUCH ANYMORE. THEY'RE SLOWLY BEING LOST TO TIME.

THERE ARE TONS OF THEM, AND THEY TAKE UP LOTS OF SPACE INSIDE THE RING.

MOST WITCHES TODAY ONLY USE THEM IN THEIR OWN PERSONAL DOODLES, IF AT ALL.

...THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH PRACTICAL APPLICATION. THEY'RE MORE ABOUT *SPECTACLE* THAN *UTILITY*.

UNLIKE THE FUNCTIONAL SIGNS WE LEARN IN THE PRIMER...

STILL... I LIKE THESE SIGNS. I THINK THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.

...I CLEAR MY MIND AND DRAW THESE SPELLS...

...FREE OF ANGUISH—OF EXPECTATIONS.

AND WHEN I FIND MYSELF UNABLE TO DRAW THE WAY I'D PLANNED...

HE SHOWED ME A FLOWER MADE OF WATER.

IT WAS THE DAY AFTER MASTER QIFREY FIRST BROUGHT ME TO THE ATELIER.

I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

I WAS MESMERIZED.

DON'T. FOR A LONG TIME NOW...

...I'VE FELT LIKE *I'M* THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO APOLOGIZE.

EEEEEEP!

...AND I SEEM TO RECALL THAT SHORTLY AFTERWARD, YOU SENT A STREAM OF WATER RIGHT AT MY *FACE.*

ACK! THAT'S RIGHT!

I STILL FEEL REALLY BAD ABOUT THAT!

'Cause one of my signs was too long!

THE DAY WE FIRST MET...

...I SAID SOME HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR MOTHER...

I'M SORRY.

FOR THE WAY I BULLIED YOU INTO THE TEST AT THE DADAH RANGE...

FOR THE WAY I TOOK OUT MY FRUSTRATION ON YOU IN THE DRAGON'S MAZE.

ALL OF IT.

I'LL NEVER TREAT YOU THAT WAY AGAIN. I SWEAR IT.

...

OH...

OKAY.

THANK YOU.

?

THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GONNA SAY?

UM... YES?

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE THINGS YOU SAID TO ME HURT...A LOT.

BUT IF YOU PROMISE NEVER TO SAY THEM AGAIN, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

NO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO. IT'S JUST...

WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY SOMETHING MORE?

TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETTY SCARY AT FIRST.

BUT YOU ENDED UP TEACHING ME A LOT ABOUT MAGIC AND LIFE AT THE ATELIER...

...AND YOU'VE SAVED ME FROM DANGER SO MANY TIMES.

SO IT'S FINE NOW.

...MAYBE YOU COULD TEACH ME SOME MORE ABOUT THOSE SIGNS YOU SHOWED ME?

WELL, IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER...

ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN...

IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

OF COURSE.

YEAH.

...!

LOOK AT THAT. JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO...

ンナホウ〜ン
HOO-MEW... HOO-MEW...

IT'S THE SILLIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN!

AGOTT! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *THIS* SIGN?!

...SHE WAS SO DISTRAUGHT ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO DRAW...

...YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS ABOUT TO END.

QVR TO IL

What kind of witch came up with this?!

LOOK AT IT! IT'S SO *ROUND!*

BUT RIGHT NOW...

SNRK!

HOO-MEW... HOO-MEW...

QVR TO IL

Stop! I'm laughing so hard I can barely hold my pen!

IT LOOKS LIKE A GLOWING OWLCAT! IT'S EVEN GOT...

...POOFY WINTER PLUMAGE!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!

I GET IT NOW.

...COCO IS MAKING MAGIC FOR HERSELF INSTEAD OF OTHERS...

...AND I'M...

...MAKING MAGIC FOR HER INSTEAD OF ME.

I CAN FINALLY SEE WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY...

MAGIC IS MEANT FOR HELPING OTHERS.

...IF YOU JUST IMAGINE THE SMILE SHE'LL WEAR WHEN YOU SHOW HER THE SPELL.

OR HOW EASY IT MUST BE TO DRAW FOR SOMEONE...

WELL, COLOR ME SURPRISED. I DIDN'T KNOW AGOTT WAS *CAPABLE* OF SMILING LIKE THAT.

?

SOMETHIN' STILL BUGGIN' YOU?

C'MON, QIFREY.

...UH... QIFREY?

WE DIDN'T CATCH ANY OF THE CONVER-SATION...

...BUT GOIN' BY HER EXPRESSION, I'D SAY SHE'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

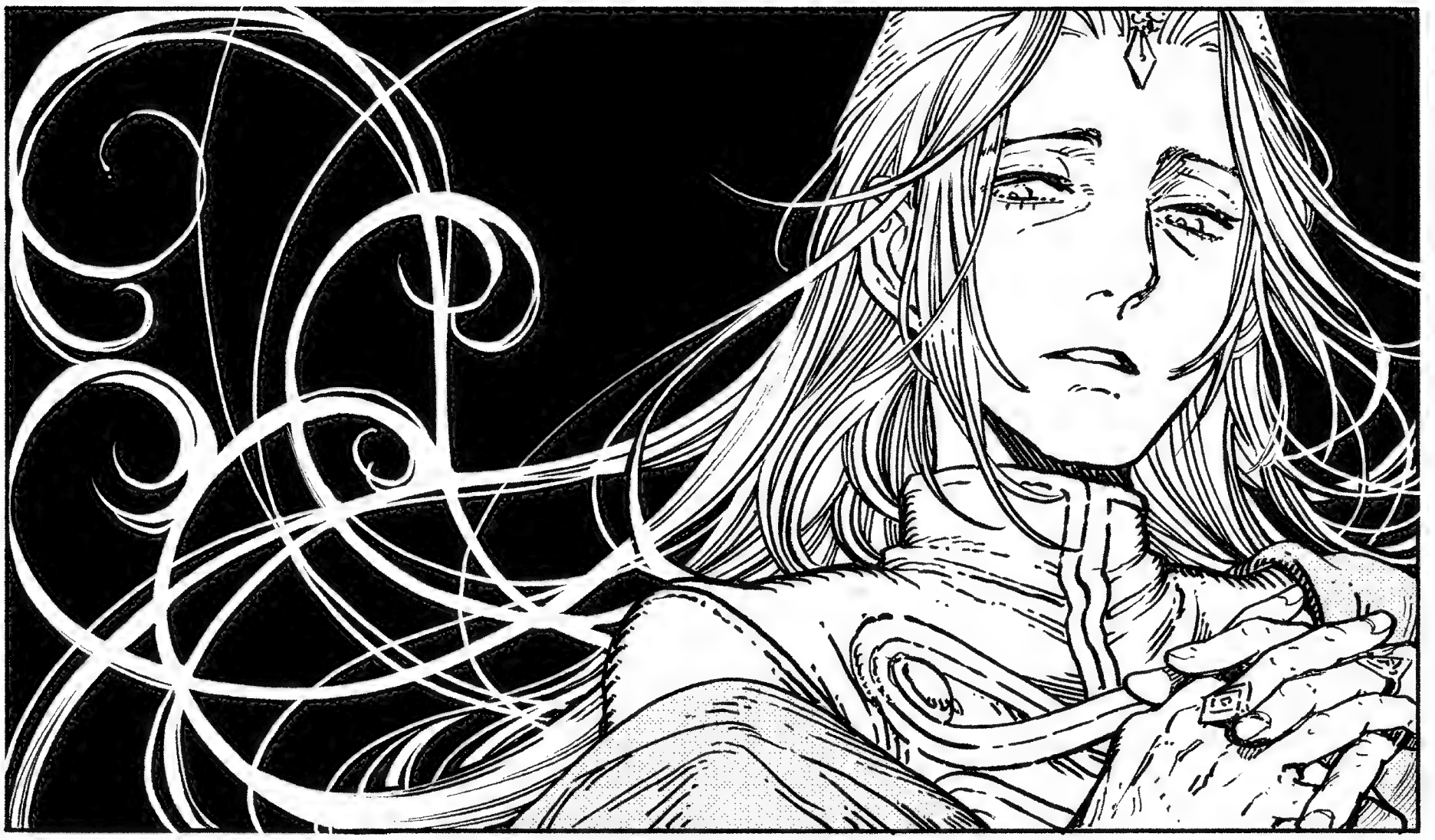
DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED.

SHE'S ACTING AWFULLY STRANGE.

COCO, I MEAN.

SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING FROM US. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.

Witch Hat Atelier



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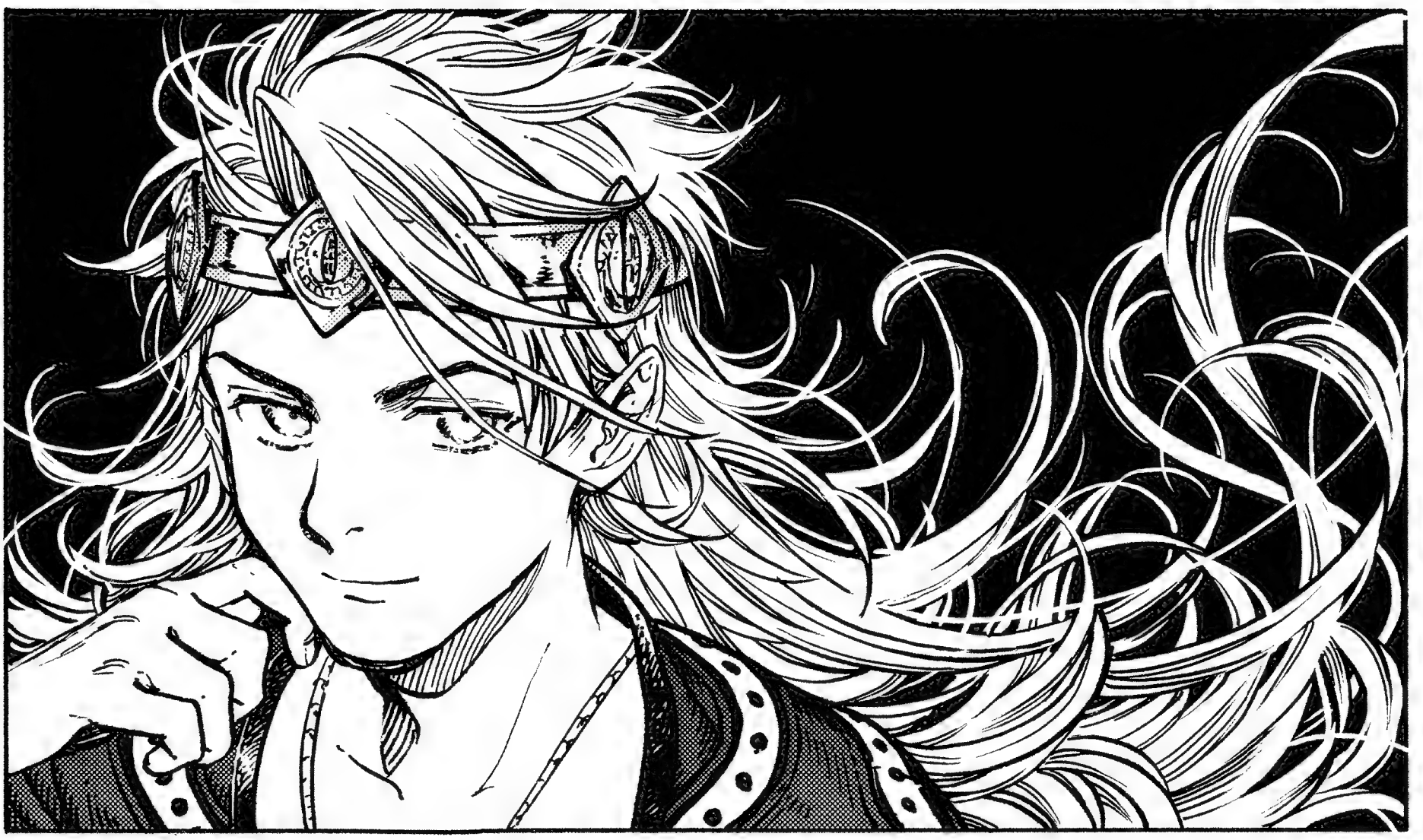


HIDING SOMETHING ...?

COCO?

WOW. YOU NOTICED, TOO?

YOU MEAN THE BANGLE ON HER WRIST, RIGHT?

...!

LISTEN CLOSE, QIFREY.

UNDER *NO* CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WE TO CONFRONT HER ABOUT IT.

HOW COME?

THE SECRET MUST BE— NO... DO YOU THINK ASKING HER WOULD PUSH HER FURTHER?

DON'T YOU GET IT?

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT IT MEANS?!

THEY MATCH!

IT ISN'T ONE LONE BANGLE! IT'S PART OF A *PAIR!*

AND THE OTHER ONE'S WRAPPED AROUND THE ARM OF THAT LITTLE TWERP FROM THE STATIONER'S!

Howdy!

THEY MATCH, I TELL YOU!

ddddd

ddddd

レナナ…

DAAAZE

ERM...?

AND WE'RE THE LAST TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD THEY WANNA SEE POKIN' OUR NOSES AROUND!

IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING!

レーヴォ BASHFUL-GGIO

MATCHING ACCESSORIES! THAT THEY BOUGHT IN SECRET! AT A FESTIVAL!

あ FWSH はぁ

はぁ FWSH

FWSH はぁ

はぁ FWSH

AND JUST LIKE THAT, A TINY SEEDLING GETS MERCILESSLY TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT, NEVER TO GET ITS CHANCE TO GROW AND BLOSSOM WITH POSSIBILITY!

WE'D BE ROBBIN' 'EM OF THEIR YOUTH, AND THAT AIN'T RIGHT!

...

HRK!

NO! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!

COCO AND TARTAH, SITTIN' IN A TREE...!

K-I-S-S-I-N-G!

THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEBODY ELSE FINDS OUT AND STARTS MAKING FUN?

※ Guest appearance by Troll-ruggio.

ERM... WELL, I DO WONDER IF THERE'S MORE TO IT...

...BUT IF THAT *IS* THE SOURCE OF HER SECRECY, I'LL BE RELIEVED.

HE'S CERTAINLY OPINIONATED ON THE MATTER...

TRUST ME. THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO LEAVE THEM BE.

NO POKING. NO PRODDING. AND ABOVE ALL, NO QUESTIONS!

Was there some tragic episode in his past?

Yup!

Mm-hm!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY RUSH, RIGHT? WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT.

BETTER TO WAIT FOR THE GIRLS TO COME TO US WITH A PROBLEM THAN TO TRY AND FORCE IT OUT OF THEM.

...

IF SHE NEEDS OUR HELP, SHE'LL ASK.

IF WE WANT THEM TO TRUST US, WE HAVE TO TRUST THEM FIRST.

...IS THAT WE BE THE KIND OF GROWN-UPS THEY FEEL THEY CAN TALK TO.

...

RIGHT?

...EVEN WHEN ONE TRUSTS SOMEBODY A GREAT DEAL, AND WISHES DESPERATELY TO CONFESS.

STILL, THERE ARE SOME TRUTHS...

...THAT ARE HARD TO BRING UP...

YES. WELL SAID.

...?

A MASTER'S TRIBULA-TIONS, HM...?

Not that I'd know. I'm no Master.

HOW'S THAT SAYING GO AGAIN...? YOU'LL NEVER COMPREHEND A MASTER'S TRIBULATIONS UNTIL YOU BECOME ONE YOURSELF.

PAT

HEY. IF THEY *DO* HAVE A PROBLEM, HOW BAD COULD IT HONESTLY BE?

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A POINT...

We were just as bad!

Ah... Yes, well...

I SEEM TO REMEMBER A COUPLE OF *OTHER* PINT-SIZED RASCALS WHO KEPT SECRETS APLENTY BACK IN THE DAY.

...HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW OF WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WONDER...

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'D HEARD LORD BELDARUIT WAS TO BE IN TOWN FOR THE FESTIVAL.

HRM...

...?

MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS *BEDSORES.*

!

TYPICAL CASE OF PRESSURE LESIONS.

THEY'RE A PRODUCT OF POOR BLOOD FLOW. IN YOUR CASE, MOST LIKELY FROM LYING TOO LONG IN ONE POSITION.

THE OUTER SKIN BEGINS TO MORTIFY, LEAVING THE LAYERS BENEATH TO SWELL AND WEEP.

KEEP THE LESIONS CLEAN. I'LL PROVIDE A SALVE TO HELP THEM HEAL, ALONG WITH POULTICES TO KEEP THEM COVERED.

AND DO TRY TO SHIFT TO A NEW POSTURE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.

I'D HOPED I WAS DOING AN ADEQUATE JOB ALREADY...

AND BRING EXTRA CUSHIONS HE CAN USE TO PROP HIMSELF UP.

LET'S GET HIM A DIFFERENT SET OF SHEETS. SOMETHING SMOOTHER ON THE SKIN.

UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE OUR ARRIVAL AT THE CASTLE, I'VE BEEN OBLIGED TO SPEND MUCH OF MY DAYS IN BED.

I'M SURE THE WISE ONE WILL REST EASIER KNOWING HIS OWN ATTENDANT IS ABLE TO HANDLE ALL THE NECESSARY TREATMENTS.

I'LL DEMONSTRATE HOW TO PREPARE THE REMEDIES, ALONG WITH PROPER CARE TECHNIQUES SO WE CAN KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

YOU, LAD. COME WITH ME.

AH, YES... THAT *CODE* BY WHICH YOU WITCHES ABIDE.

I'M AFRAID COMPOUNDING MEDICINES WOULD NOT BE...

BEG PARDON, YOUR MAJESTY. YOUNG RILIPHIN IS MY APPRENTICE. NOT MY MANSERVANT.

IF THE TALES ARE TO BE BELIEVED, THE BALANCE OF PEACE THE ESTUS HAS LONG ENJOYED...

...IS THANKS TO SACRED COVENANTS OUR FOREBEARS SWORE TO KEEP OUR CITIES AND RELATIONS AT RESPECTFUL DISTANCE.

WE MUSTN'T INTRUDE UPON EACH OTHER'S DOMAIN FOR SAKE OF CONTINUED HARMONY... OR SO YOU CLAIM.

THOSE WITH MAGIC AND THOSE WITHOUT ARE NOT TO INTERACT, EXCEPT AS STRICTLY NECESSARY.

GRIN

NNNOOO!

AND TO THAT END, IT SEEMS MOST REASONABLE TO ME THAT WE MAKE AN EFFORT TO SHARE WHAT WE EACH KNOW.

OR DO YOU FIND MY LOGIC... UNSOUND?

IT IS A VERY OLD...

...AND VERY DREADFUL SET OF RULES YOU WITCHES LIVE BY. EVEN FOOLISH, I'D SAY.

TO MY MIND, ANY TOOL FIT TO EASE THE SUFFERING OF A PATIENT IN MY CARE IS A TOOL I SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO ACQUIRE.

YOU WOULD HAVE US TEACH YOU OUR WAYS, IS THAT IT?

IT IS A FOUL TRICK TO DEMAND OF THE ILL MAN HIS RICHES WHILE HE SITS AT YOUR MERCY!

OR IS THAT PRECISELY *WHY* YOU CHOSE TO PURSUE THE HEALING ARTS, O KING OF LIFE?

YOU'VE MADE IT QUITE PLAIN WHAT YOU INTEND TO OFFER IN RETURN IF WE DO—OR TO *WITHHOLD* IF WE DO NOT!

AM I TO BEND MY KNEE AND PROFFER ALL MY KNOWLEDGE IN THANKS FOR SUCCOR THAT SERVES AS CHEAP MASK FOR CONTROL?

HMM... *CONTROL* MASQUERADING AS A *HELPING* HAND...

...ON WHICH YOU WITCHES MUST BE *VERY* WELL VERSED.

NOW *THERE'S* A TOPIC...

CREAK

WUSH

!

THMP

!!

THE BALANCE OF POWER *MUST* BE PRESERVED...

...THAT THE SCALE NOT TIP TO *EITHER* SIDE.

THE COVENANTS ARE NO FOLLY!

KRASH

カリチャ！！

THAT IS A TRUTH I SUGGEST YOU TAKE TO HEART, *YOUR MAJESTY.*

FOR IF IT DOES, THE FULCRUM AND *ALL* IT BEARS WILL TUMBLE.

BELDA-MROW?!!

H...?!

WAVE WAVE

I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WITH A CAT WHOSE FUR HAS BEGUN TO BRISTLE.

IT SEEMS THE WISE ONE IS FEELING OUT OF SORTS. I'LL HAVE TO RETURN ANOTHER TIME.

WHRL

FWISH

FWIIING

HAHAHA! YOU'LL NEVER FIND A FINER ANIMAL!

HOW DARE YOU?!

WHY MUST *CAT OWNERS* INSIST ON SPEAKING OF EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF *CATS*?!

BE NOT MISTAKEN, WITCHES. I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE LOATH TO DISTURB THE BALANCE BETWEEN US.

STILL, SUCH CAUTIONS DO LITTLE TO TEMPER HUMAN DESIRE. FORBID A MAN A TREASURE, AND HE ONLY COVETS IT MORE.

THE RISKS DO NOT ESCAPE ME, EITHER. MAGIC AND MEDICINE INTERTWINED WOULD SOON BLUR THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

'TIS A GREAT TEST OF RESOLVE TO GIVE A MAN POWER AND ASK HE KEEP IT TIGHTLY REINED.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

HURRRAAHRRAAAAAAAA
WE IMAGINE A MIRACULOUS POWER THAT DWELLS WITHIN...
CERTAIN IT WILL MANIFEST SOME MORNING AS WE RISE FROM BED.
IT IS A DREAM THAT EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE...
AND EVEN AFTER IT DAWNS ON US THAT THIS SHALL NEVER BE SO...
...EVEN AFTER WE DESPAIR OVER A DAY THAT SHALL NOT COME...
WE FIND THAT OUR HEARTS CANNOT HELP BUT YEARN...
RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH

...HOPING THAT MAYBE, MAYBE WE WILL YET FIND OUR MEANS TO RENDER THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.

IMAGINE...

...IF HIS MAJESTY THE KING *DID* SUCCEED IN SUPPLEMENTING...

...HIS ALREADY FORMIDABLE AUTHORITY.

RAAAH!

...AND KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE, HE WERE TO ALSO POSSESS ALL THE MYSTERIES OF MAGIC.

ONE HAS TO WONDER WHAT SORT OF RULER HE WOULD BE IF, IN ADDTION TO HIS ROYAL STATUS...

WITCH KING...

LORD BELDARUIT?

...WHAT TITLE MIGHT BEFIT A MONARCH WHO HOLDS MASTERY OVER MAGIC.

...PONDERING ALOUD...

I WAS MERELY...

I SEE...

DEANRELDY, THE WITCH KING...

ハッ k-

CREEEAK

キィィ

TMP

AND YOU, MASTER OLLY!

STEADY NOW...

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE ADVICE, MASTER QIFREY.

VERY GOOD. WHEN YOU ARE, BRING IT TO ME AND I'LL SEE IT IN.

I'M GOING TO EXPERIMENT A LITTLE MORE. A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS, AND I THINK I'LL BE READY TO SUBMIT FOR INSPECTION.

FEEL FREE TO COME TO US WITH QUESTIONS ANYTIME.

JUST HAPPY TO HELP.

I WILL, MASTER!

PUMP

YOU'RE ALMOST THERE, AGOTT. KEEP AT IT!

REMEMBER, THE DEADLINE SET BY THE WISE IN FRIEND-SHIPS IS THIS EVENING.

SO, UM...

...WHAT KIND OF SPELL DID YOU DECIDE TO—

COCO'S STILL HARD AT WORK, TOO...

...

SHIVER

WHIRL

FOR ALL THAT STUFF I SAID LAST NIGHT...

...I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M STILL A LITTLE JEALOUS.

'CAUSE ONCE SHE MAKES IT OUT OF HER SLUMP AND INSPIRATION STRIKES...

...IT'S SO FRUSTRAT-INGLY...

...TOR-MENT-INGLY...

AND YET...

FW

...PAINFULLY OBVIOUS HOW BRIGHT SHE SHINES.

RSH

I STILL REFUSE TO LOSE. NOT TO HER, AND **ESPECIALLY** NOT...
...TO THAT AWFUL PART OF ME...
...THAT SOMETIMES WISHES SHE HAD NEVER APPEARED.
FOR THE MAGIC THAT WILL TURN THEIR HEADS!
FOR THE MAGIC WHOSE POTENTIAL WE HAVE YET TO UNLOCK!
FOR THE MAGIC WE MUST PRY...
...FROM THE HANDS OF OUR FOES!
FOR THE MAGIC THAT MUST BE PROTECTED!
FOR THE MAGIC...
...I CAN USE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED!
FOR THE MAGIC I SWEAR TO MAKE MINE!

...IT'S DONE!

FOR ALL I STRIVE TO DO WITH MAGIC!

FOR WHAT MAGIC GIVES ME THE POWER TO DO...

MASTER QIFREY!

IT'S FINISHED!

MY SPELL!

IT'S READY FOR THE SILVER EVE PROCES-SION!

Witch Hat Atelier

THE TOWER OF TOMES

MADAM LIBRARIAN?

KLAK

MADAM ADINA ARKLAUM?

I'VE BROUGHT THE WINDOWWAY.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD GET GOING?

IT'S VERY NEARLY TIME FOR THE PROCESSION TO BEGIN.

Chapter 60

THE DAY OF THE SILVER EVE PROCESSION

AND ATOP THE STAGES STAND THE WITCHES, SHOWCASING THEIR SPELLS FOR ALL TO SEE!

THE PROCESSION BEGINS HERE IN THE CENTRAL SQUARE.

THESE CIRCULAR FLOATFORMS SERVE AS THE STAGES...

...WHICH ARE PULLED ALONG THE MAIN AVENUES IN ONE GREAT LOOP OF THE CITY.

THOUGH GIVEN THE LAST MINUTE NATURE OF YOUR ENTRIES, I AM A *BIT* CONCERNED. YOU'RE DIVING RIGHT INTO THIS...

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE BOTH OKAY?

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER. I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT YOU *BOTH* PASSED THE WISE IN FRIENDSHIPS' INSPECTION!

CALM DOWN, GIRLS! DEEP BREATHS!

OH, DEAR... IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS CAST THE SPELL... ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS CAST THE SPELL...

T-T-T-T-TOTALLY FINE! MAYBE. OR MAYBE NOT. BUT I'M DOING THIS!

FLAGS?

WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

AH! WELL, YOU SEE...

GOT YOUR FLAGS YET?

ANYONE STILL NEED A FLAG?

OOH! OVER HERE! WE DON'T HAVE OURS!

AND AS WE WATCH THE PROCESSION GO BY, IF WE SEE A CONTRAPTION WE LIKE AND WISH THE TOWNS HAD ACCESS TO, WE WAVE OUR FLAGS!

THEY PASS THESE LITTLE FLAGS OUT, ONE PER PERSON, TO THE REGULAR TOWNSFOLK...

...AND TO ANY WITCH WHO *ISN'T* SHOWCASING A SPELL.

Better add it to my list!

Mm-hm. I can see at a glance the crowd loves this one.

...GIVING HIM AN IDEA WHICH ONES WOULD MOST HELP THE PEOPLE. BASED ON THAT, HE DECIDES WHICH ONES TO BUY!

THE KING WATCHES HOW MANY PEOPLE WAVE THEIR FLAGS AS EACH SPELL IS PRESENTED...

That'd be so useful!

Wow! I want one of those!

My life would be so much easier!

Love it!

IT'S NOT?

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT.

...THE MORE ORDERS FOR IT THE KINGDOM IS LIKELY TO PLACE.

VERY GOOD, TETIA. THE LARGER A REACTION A GIVEN SPELL GARNERS...

INDEED. SO EVEN A SINGLE FLAG WAVING, SIGNIFYING A SINGLE PERSON'S DESIRE, CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED.

YUP. IT MEANS THAT SPELL HAS VALUE. IT WAS NEEDED BY *SOMEONE* IN THIS WORLD.

SOMETIMES A SPELL THAT DOESN'T PARTICULARLY RESONATE WITH THE MASSES...

...ACTUALLY HIGHLIGHTS THE OFT-OVERLOOKED DIFFICULTIES FACED BY A FEW.

GWIP

SO DON'T BE SHY!

STAND TALL!

AND WHEN YOU'RE UP THERE AND IT COMES YOUR TURN, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

YOU HEAR ME?

WHAP

YES, MASTER!

OH, UH... COCO? A WORD, PLEASE?

ATTENTION, ALL DEMONSTRATORS! PLEASE PROCEED THIS WAY!

ONLOOKERS, PLEASE FIND A SPOT ALONG THE PROCESSION ROUTE!

?

WHAT IS IT, MASTER QIFREY?

...

UM...

IF...

...THIS MOST RECENT STRUGGLE OF YOURS— *WHATEVER* IT IS— IS BUT A TRIFLE, THEN SO BE IT.

BUT...

...IF YOU WANT TO TALK, I AM HERE FOR YOU, WHENEVER THAT MAY BE.

I'LL GLADLY LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO TELL ME.

ANYTHING AT ALL, COCO.

SST

...!

...

WHSPR コソ...

YES. I KNOW.

THIS IS OUR ONE SHOT, COCO.

OH...!

THAT'S STRANGE ...

OKAY, GRANDPA. I WILL...

OH. RIGHT...

TARTAH, M'BOY!

THIS IS OUR BIG CHANCE! WE NEED T'BE FINDING *YOU* A MASTER!

...YOU'RE SURE TO FIND A GOOD MATCH. SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

WITH THE NUMBER OF WITCHES HERE FOR THE PROCESSION...

...SHOULD HAVE ME JUMPING UP AND DOWN. I WONDER WHAT'S CHANGED?

THE THOUGHT OF CHOOSING A MASTER...

I'M FULL OF DOUBTS—

DOUBTS ABOUT THE GROWN-UPS AND THEIR LIES, DOUBTS ABOUT WITCHES.

NO. I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

AND HOW AM I...

...SUPPOSED TO CALL SOMEONE "MASTER" IF I DON'T RESPECT THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE?

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY'RE ALL WITCHES...

...WHICH MEANS NONE OF THEM WOULD EVEN **WANT** TO OFFER CUSTAS THEIR HELP.

IT WOULDN'T MATTER WHO I CHOSE AS MY MASTER...

...OR WHO I TURNED TO FOR ADVICE.

...THAT I'D THINK ABOUT STUDYING UNDER IS...

THE ONLY WITCH I KNOW...

UM... IT'S NOTHING. I'M FINE.

YOU LOOK AS TIGHTLY WOUND AS OUR FRIENDS GOING UP ON STAGE.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

TARTAH?

ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...

...OR FOR COCO.

PLEASE, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED... ANY *HELP* YOU MIGHT REQUIRE, JUST SAY SO.

I'M... GONNA GO FIND MYSELF A FLAG. I DIDN'T GET ONE YET!

TARTAH!

SWIP

FWIP

HOW DOES HE *KNOW...?*

GWIP!

HOW...?

IT'LL BE A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. NO DOUBT THERE!

GOODNESS... I WONDER WHAT SORT OF MARVELS WE'RE IN FOR THIS YEAR.

SHF

NOD

AT YOUR COMMAND, YOUR MAJESTY.

GOOD PEOPLE OF THE PENINSULA!
IT IS OUR UTMOST PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE...
...THAT THE SILVER EVE PROCESSION HAS NOW BEGUN!
SO RAISE YOUR FLAGS...
...AND THROW YOUR FLOWERS...
...AS THE WITCHES MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN THE CITY STREETS...
...WITH ENOUGH LIGHTS AND DAZZLING DISPLAYS TO KEEP THE NIGHT AT BAY!

ギュイイイ
WHIRR
RRR
SWIP-
PIP-
SPARKLE!
WOO
OOO
ばさあ
FLURMP
PWUMF ふもっ
PWUMF ふもっ
PWUMF ふもっ
アOOO!ア
ア
THAT'S MY MASTER UP ON STAGE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HIS FULLY AUTOMATIC DUSTCHOMP SWEEPER IS PRETTY GREAT, RIGHT?!

NO, UM... WE'RE PRESENTING OUR OWN SPELLS.

ARE YOU HERE TO HELP *YOUR* MASTER PREP FOR A DEMONSTRATION, TOO?

HI! I'M JUJY!

AND I'M COCO.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!

MY NAME'S AGOTT.

WOW! GOOD FOR YOU! THAT'S A BIG DEAL!

WELL, WELL, WELL. IF IT ISN'T AGOTT ARKLAUM.

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE—

OH! RIGHT!

AGOTT, YOU SAY...? I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE...

UGH...

IT'S LOROGA ROENTON.

I FIGURED YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO SHOW UP IN PLACES YOU DON'T *BELONG.*

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE *YOU* HERE.

I THOUGHT THEY DIDN'T WELCOME *COPYCATS.*

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING UP THERE?

LOW-BLOW-ENTON...

イヤミ JEER

イヤミ JEER

DID YOU FORGET? THE PROCESSION IS FOR SHOWCASING *ORIGINAL* SPELLS.

イヤミ JEER

イヤミ JEER

...I DIDN'T ST...

HEY, YOU...!

...I JUST GOTTA ASK. WHOSE SPELL DID YOU STEAL *THIS* TIME, THIEF?

'CAUSE IF YOU ARE...

I DIDN'T STEAL *ANYTHING!*

GWIP

I MIGHT'VE BEEN TOO SCARED TO DEFEND MYSELF BACK THEN.

BUT NOW I SEE THAT STAYING SILENT MADE ME LOOK GUILTY!

QUIT SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT ME!

DO YOU HEAR ME, LOROGA?!

THAT WAS *MY* SPELL. I DIDN'T STEAL IT FROM ANYONE!

SO I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME, NICE AND CLEAR.

I'M NOT THAT GIRL ANYMORE. I WON'T STAND BY AND LET ANYONE SMEAR MY NAME!

NOW YOU LISTEN HERE!

YOU *HAD* TO HAVE BEEN CHEATING! WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION —

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT YOU! YOUR SPELLS WERE *WAY* TOO GOOD FOR OUR AGE.

SWAT!!

G...

GETTING ANGRY MAKES YOU LOOK EVEN WORSE! NOW I *KNOW* I'M RIGHT!

HER SPELLS ARE AMAZING...

...BECAUSE OF THE WORK SHE PUTS INTO THEM! SHE AGONIZES OVER EVERY DETAIL!

I'VE SEEN THE WAY AGOTT DRAWS!

...AND POURS EVERYTHING SHE HAS INTO HER CREATIONS. THAT'S WHY HER SPELLS ARE SO GOOD!

SHE RACKS HER BRAIN IN ANGUISH...

...TRIES TO LEARN AS MUCH AS SHE CAN...

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

SHE CAN'T BE USING SOMEONE ELSE'S SPELLS, BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE COPYING, THERE'S NOTHING TO AGONIZE OVER!

DON'T YOU SEE?

TRACE THE LINES, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE DONE.

NO PAIN OR AGONY OR RACKING YOUR BRAIN. AT LEAST, NOT WHILE YOU'RE DRAWING.

WHEN YOU COPY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK. YOU JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS.

THE AGONY FROM COPYING COMES LATER, *AFTER* YOU'RE DONE.

*I **KNOW** THE DANGER OF USING SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK.*

AND IT STICKS WITH YOU. YOU HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT, FOREVER AND EVER.

YOU FIND YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING BIGGER ON YOUR HANDS...

...THAN YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE. THAT'S WHEN THE REGRET SEEPS IN.

YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S LOROGA, RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHERE YOU MET AGOTT, BUT...

*WHAT'S WITH THE **INTENSITY**? WHO IS SHE?!*

THE AGOTT *I* KNOW...

WHEN SHE HITS A WALL, SHE FINDS A WAY THROUGH! THAT'S *MY* AGOTT!

...IS THE ONE ALWAYS STRIVING FOR MORE!

AND THIS AGOTT I KNOW? SOME OF HER SPELLS ARE REALLY CUTE! LIKE WHEN SHE MAKES HER STUFFED ANIMALS *DANCE!*

GRK!

UM!

AGOTT'S MY FELLOW APPRENTICE, AND SHE'S HELPED ME MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT!

YOU SHOULD *SEE* THE STACKS OF PRACTICE SHEETS PILED ON HER DESK AT THE END OF EACH DAY! *THAT'S* AGOTT!

COCO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AUGH!

AND WHEN SHE'S DRAWING AT HER DESK, HER LEGS ARE ALWAYS RESTLESS, WHICH IS TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HER, AND—

STOP! THAT'S ENOUGH!!

THIS ALL SEEMS SO ABSURD NOW.

I HONESTLY DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT HIS ACCUSATIONS ANYMORE.

REALLY. THAT'S ENOUGH.

FSHHHHH...

PLEASE.

NO MORE. I'M BEGGING YOU.

NRMGHHH...

Really? 'Cause I could keep going...

...IS A BITE OF FOOD FROM THE TABLE BEFORE IT'S TIME TO EAT!

YEAH! BESIDES, THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER KNOWN *YOU* TO SNEAK...

WH...?

You saw that?!

...WHEN I'VE GOT ANOTHER WITCH LOOKING UP TO ME AS MUCH AS YOU OBVIOUSLY DO.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'D EVER CHEAT...

BUT EVERYONE SAYS SHE DID IT!

HUH?! I MEAN... NO...

OH. GREAT. SO YOU WEREN'T EVEN *THERE*.

BUT...!

B...!

...ARE *YOU* THE ONE SHE SUPPOSEDLY STOLE THIS SPELL FROM?

SO TELL ME...

QVR QVR

GRK!

YOU'RE A WITCH. START ACTING LIKE ONE. IF YOU WANT TO SHOW HER UP, GET BETTER AND DO IT IN INK.

HOW ABOUT YOU QUIT PICKING FIGHTS AND *BUZZ OFF?*

IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO TEAR DOWN SOMEONE WHO'S WAY MORE TALENTED THAN YOU.

SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!

SHUT UP! ALL OF YOU!

...AND VANISH FROM MY WORLD SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO *THINK* ABOUT YOU ANYMORE!

YOU WERE *SUPPOSED* TO SINK INTO DESPAIR...

SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN

Oh, boy...

...

AGOTT ARKLAUM!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, I'D BE FREE TO *CONCENTRATE* ON MY OWN MAGIC!

GRAAAAAH!

SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN

ONE LESS THING I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT!

I WOULD'VE HAD ONE LESS THING TYING MY MIND UP IN KNOTS!

PWEEE-U!

SHOO SHOO

(IS TOTALLY WOWED BY ALL HER SPELLS.)

YOUR SPELLS AREN'T AS HOT AS YOU MIGHT THINK! I'VE NEVER *ONCE* BEEN IMPRESSED BY ANYTHING YOU'VE CAST!

FINE! GO! GET UP THERE ON THE *BIG* STAGE SO YOU CAN EPICALLY FAIL AND BE MAJORLY EMBARRASSED!

WAAA

AAAH!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

LIKE YOU SAY, HE PROBABLY SPOTTED ME AND DECIDED TO TRY SHAKING MY RESOLVE.

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD LIKE THAT.

Ugh... That guy...

BEATS ME...

WHAT WAS HE EVEN DOING HERE?

LUCKY FOR ME, HIS PLAN BACKFIRED.

NOW I CAN BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND MY SKILLS, TOO.

COCO BELIEVED IN ME...

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU TWO!

YOU'RE ALMOST UP. READY?

!

THERE YOU ARE!

AGOTT, I...

YOU BET WE ARE!

BOTH IN SPELL AND SPIRIT!

ONWARD, TO THE STAGE!

Now it makes sense.

OHH... RIGHT.

SO *THAT'S* WHY HER NAME SOUNDED FAMILIAR.

ooo

WHY DO *YOU* GET TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE WITCHES APPRENTICED TO MY PREDIS' BESTIE?!

WHY, JUJY?!

This is so unfair!

Witch Hat Atelier

Chapter 61

NEXT DEMONSTRATORS, PLEASE APPROACH THE WINDOWWAYS!
I REPEAT, PLEASE APPROACH THE WINDOWWAYS TO JOIN THE PROCESSION!
TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP
FWISH

WOOOOO!

OOH! IT'S THE FIRE WITCH!

OLRUGGIO OF THE TORCH. I'M A BIG FAN OF HIS.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE'S COOKED UP THIS TIME.

HRM...?

CREAK

CLATTER

QUEEN ZAYA-MAIYA!

YOUR MAJESTY!

KACLATTER

ZAYAMAIYA!

THANK YOU FOR THE HELP UP THE STEPS, EOLEO.

I SHOULD BE QUITE ALL RIGHT NOW.

BESIDES, I COULDN'T BEAR TO MISS THE SPECTACLE!

I KNOW, BUT...

...IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME. TO BEST UNDERSTAND THE SPELLS, I NEED TO SEE THEM MYSELF.

REALLY, MY LOVE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CLIMB ALL THE WAY UP HERE.

I WOULD'VE BROUGHT THE PROGRAM DOWN FOR YOU TO PERUSE AFTERWARD.

A TORCH...? WHAT'S THAT AROUND THE FLAME?

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF GEMSTONE.

FLICKER

I'M CERTAIN I'D MISS SOMETHING MAGNIFICENT IF I STAYED INSIDE!

PATTER

PATTER

I THINK HE'S PASSING THEM OUT TO THE CROWD.

OH, WOW... LOOK!

EEP!

KTAK

WHAP

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

FWICK

THERE'S A FLAME...

...BURNING INSIDE THE CRYSTAL!

YES, IT'S VERY PRETTY, BUT... IT'S NOT HOT, IS IT? I DON'T WANT YOU TO BURN YOURSELF!

IT'S FLICKERING AND DANCING LIKE REAL FIRE!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, KID!

MY FINGERS AREN'T HOT AT ALL! MAYBE IT'S SAFE TO TOUCH BECAUSE IT'S A *MAGIC* FLAME!

I GET IT!

!

OHH... SO IT'S ONLY SAFE IF IT STAYS IN THE CRYSTAL?

FIRE IS FIRE. AN OPEN FLAME'S GONNA BURN YA, MAGIC OR NOT!

THE ONLY REASON YOU CAN TOUCH IT IS 'CAUSE IT'S SEALED INSIDE THE CRYSTAL.

SO TO FIX THE NIX, ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS MAKE THE FLAME *SEEM* DANGEROUS, EVEN WHEN IT ISN'T...?

WHEN MASTER OLLY HAD TO NIX THE PHANTASMAL FIREBALL...

...IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED PEOPLE WOULD START TO FORGET THE DANGER OF FIRE.

EXCELLENT DEDUCTION, GIRLS!

...WHILE STILL ALLOWING US TO PROVIDE A SAFER ALTERNATIVE TO THE PEOPLE!

...DIFFERENT TYPES OF FIRE MUST BE HANDLED...

...THE PERCEPTION OF DANGER REMAINS INTACT, ELIMINATING THE CONFUSION AS TO HOW...

BY ENCASING THE FLAME SO IT CANNOT BE TOUCHED...

...THIS NEW AND IMPROVED VERSION IS WHAT HE CAME UP WITH.

I SUSPECT OLRUGGIO WENT BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD, AND AFTER A GOOD HARD LOOK AT HIS CREATION...

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IS JUST SO TREMENDOUSLY, STUPENDOUSLY... *COOL!*

OH, WOW...

HE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON IT AFTER ALL.

HE SEARCHED FOR WAYS AROUND THE SPELL'S SHORTCOMINGS. HE MADE IT WORK!

HUR

...IS AN EQUALLY TREMENDOUS AND STUPENDOUS WITCH IN THE MAKING.

RAH!

INDEED.

BUT AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

EACH OF YOU...

LIKE WHAT?

キョとん

STA AARE

?

CHATTER

FRANKLY, I THINK THEY'RE GORGEOUS. THEY'D LOOK GREAT IN A PENDANT OR BROOCH.

I'D LIKE TO SEND ONE TO MY SWEET-HEART.

BEST OF ALL, IT'S SAFE FOR KIDS TO HANDLE!

DO THEY NOT NEED OIL, EITHER? WE COULD USE THESE ABOARD SHIPS!

AND IT'LL NEVER BLOW OUT 'CAUSE OF WIND OR STORMS!

A TORCH THAT WON'T CAUSE A FIRE?!

AMAZING...

C...

6

COCO...?!

LOOK AT ALL THOSE FLAGS WAVING IN THE CROWD...

AND THEY'RE ALL FOR MASTER OLLY!

9

UM... I'M PRETTY SURE THE LOOKING GLASS IS ONLY FOR **LOOKING.** NOT FOR CONVERSATION.

At least, that's what I thought...

Focus!

YOU'RE ON STAGE! IT'S ALMOST YOUR TURN!

YOU NEED TO BE THINKING ABOUT *YOUR* SPELL, NOT MUSING ABOUT MASTER OLLY'S!

GWIP

C... CONCENTRATE, COCO!

JUST WAIT UNTIL THEY GET A LOAD OF MY SPELL!

ポンッ

SPLORK

?!?!

?!

GLORP

THAT'S *WASTEWATER*, ISN'T IT? WHY IS SHE POURING IT FROM ONE POT TO ANOTHER?!

MUTTER...

EW! WHAT IS SHE DOING?!

THAT STUFF REEKS!

?!

HEFT

PLUNK

SWISH

HMHM. YOU SEE...

HUH?

...WATER... ON US?

...CLEAN...

YUCK! STOP! DON'T DUMP YOUR...

THE VASE MUST'VE PURIFIED IT!

IT DOESN'T STINK AT ALL!

...COCO'S SPELL ENABLES THE TOWNSFOLK TO THROW THEIR OLD WASTEWATER AWAY...

...*AFTER* IT HAS BEEN CLEANSED!

I MADE A MINI VERSION OF THE SEAL ON THE SEWER GRATE...

...AND USED IT TO CREATE THIS PORTABLE WASTE PURIFICATION POT!

SPLORSH

HRNGH!

ニモ ぼぉ ぼぉ ぼぉ ぼぉ

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THERE'S FOREVER A BUILDUP OF GUNK AMONG THE PART OF TOWN THEY CALL THE MUCKPOOL.

SHF

AS IT IS, ONE SEAL ON ONE GRATE...

ZRK ムㄱ ZRK ムㄱ

...IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANSING ALL THE WASTE-WATER PRODUCED BY THE ENTIRE CITY.

...EVERY HOUSEHOLD HAD ITS OWN LITTLE SEAL LIKE THE ONE ON THE SEWER GRATE?

SO I THOUGHT, WHAT IF...

...CLEANSING IT BEFORE THEY POUR IT DOWN INTO THE SEWERS...

IF EVERY-BODY TOOK CARE OF THEIR **OWN** WASTE...

...!

IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS...?

I WANT TO USE MY MAGIC TO HELP.

...THEN MAYBE... JUST MAYBE...

...THE CANAL RUNNING THROUGH THE MUCKPOOL WOULD LOOK A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT.

...AND CUSTAS AS HE USED TO BE.

BOTH FOR CUSTAS AS HE IS TODAY...

...HAVING ACCESS TO A CLEAN SOURCE OF WATER...

I KNOW IT'S JUST WATER.

BUT STILL...

Then I had to go back to dump our dirty water!

...MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

Back in the village, I had to haul a big bucket all the way from the spring in the forest.

I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HUH?

SO WHY...?

HU

SH...

WHY ISN'T ANYONE ELSE RAISING THEIR FLAG...

...TO VOTE FOR COCO'S SPELL?!

はっ GASP

...BUT FIRST WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *PURIFY* IT?

WE STILL HAVE TO DUMP OUR WATER OUT LIKE ALWAYS...

MURMUR

MURMUR

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT ...

Right?!

Throwing it out is annoying enough as it is...

Mm-hm...

SO BEFORE WE THROW OUR DIRTY WATER OUT, WE HAVE TO POUR IT INTO A SEPARATE CONTAINER?

ISN'T THAT, LIKE, A HUGE WASTE OF TIME?

Seriously!

HOW EXACTLY IS THAT SPELL SUPPOSED TO MAKE *OUR* LIVES BETTER?

What a letdown...

That's it?

Geez.

I GUESS IT COULD BE NICE FOR GETTIN' FRESH WATER OUTDOORS...

...BUT WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE VAPOR BUBBLES FOR THAT!

My thoughts exactly.

I'm pretty happy with the way things are now.

MASTER QIFREY?

OH, DEAR... I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS.

WITCHES USE THEIR SPELLS TO HELP OTHERS.

THAT'S THE WAY OF *OUR* WORLD, SO I THOUGHT COCO'S SPELL PERFECTLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

BUT TO MANY WHO *AREN'T* WITCHES...

...THE ONLY FOCUS IS ON HOW A SPELL STANDS TO SAVE THEM TIME OR TROUBLE.

WHAK

ALL THE MORE TRUE WHEN THE OTHERS' NEEDS INVOLVES A PRICY CONTRAPTION.

IT IS HARD TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS...

...WHEN WE ARE NOT FIRST SATISFIED THAT OUR OWN NEEDS ARE MET.

COCO!

トヘミャアー

KERSPLK

B-DMP

B-DMP

B-DMP

B-DMP

B-DMP

...BUT WHAT ABOUT A SPELL THAT GETS BASICALLY NO FLAGS AT ALL? WOULD THE KING STILL BUY IT?

O-OH NO... WHAT NOW?

MASTER SAID EVEN A SPELL THAT ONLY GETS A **FEW** FLAGS IS STILL ONE THE WORLD NEEDED...

チラッ

GLANCE

AS IT IS, NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE ABOUT MY SPELL AT ALL.

THAT MEANS I DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO SAVE ANYONE AT ALL!

BUT...BUT THAT MEANS IT'S OVER.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THEN?!

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FAIL EVEN **AFTER** I TRIED MY BEST?

...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIX *THIS?*

I USED TO SAY I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO...

I PUSHED BEYOND THAT AND ASKED WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE IT WORK...

COCO!

C...

H-HEY...!

IT'S NOT HER TURN YET!

OH, GEEZ. WHAT IS SHE DOIN'?

LOOK! IT'S AGOTT!

OH, NO. COCO!

C'MON! PULL IT TOGETHER!

SO THINGS ARE LOOKING A LITTLE ROUGH. THAT NEVER STOPPED YOU BEFORE.

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

DON'T YOU DARE LET ONE LITTLE HICCUP KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR FEET!

YEAH...

YOU'RE RIGHT! I *DO*!

GWIP

...ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS THINK OF ANOTHER!

IF YOUR FIRST PLAN FAILS...

WANNA GIVE IT A SHOT?

COCO, I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR YOU.

LISTEN TO 'EM, CHEERIN' LIKE THEY'RE HAVIN' THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES.

THE PROCESSION MUST BE STARTIN'.

BLAST IT ALL! IF ONLY WE COULD CAST A SPELL OR TWO!

EVERY GUARD IN THE CITY IS OUT THERE KEEPIN' THE CROWDS IN CHECK. THIS'D BE THE *PERFECT* TIME TO ESCAPE!

ZSHK OO

EXCUSE ME?

SLP

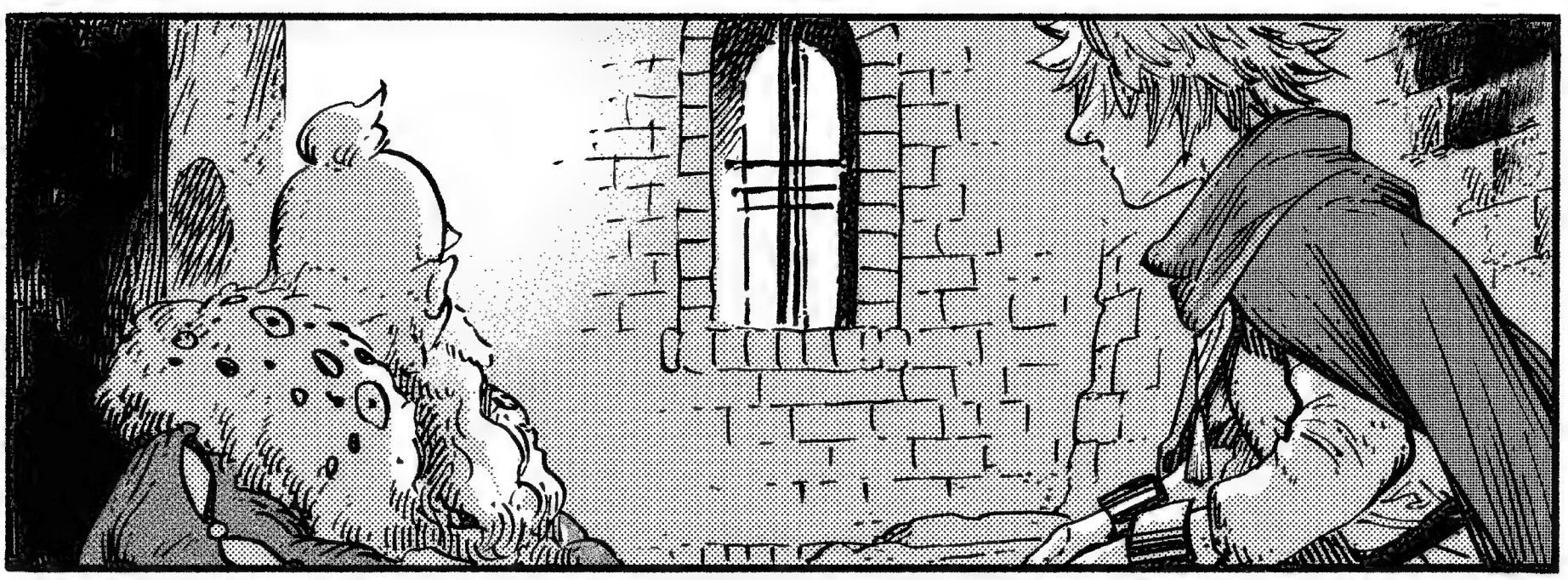
THERE *ARE* WAYS...

YES. *INSIDE* THE WALLS.

MAGIC DOESN'T *WORK* INSIDE THE WALLS OF CASTLE EZ—

THAT STILL ISN'T GONNA DO US ANY GOOD. OR DID YOU FORGET?

HUH. ALL RIGHT. SO THE GEMSTONE FROM YOUR RING IS A GLOB OF HARDENED WOODCRUOR.



AFTER ALL...

...THERE IS NOTHING MAGIC *CANNOT* DO, IF ONE DOES NOT MIND *HOW* IT IS DONE.

CARE TO GIVE IT A TRY?

A SINGLE VENT FOR AIR, TOO NARROW TO FIT MUCH MORE THAN MY ARMS.

*BUT MY FINGERS WOULD BE OVER OPEN SEA. **OUTSIDE.***

CHAPTER 61 ♦ END

Witch Hat Atelier

HAAAH...

NOTHIN'.
I GOT *NOTHIN'*.

Bonus Chapter

TWIRL

TWIRL

ALL RIGHT. FOCUS, OLLY. HOW DO WE MAKE THIS NEW SPELL WORK?

...IT AIN'T LOOKIN' HALF BAD ANYMORE.

NOW THAT I'M STARIN' AT THIS BLANK PAGE, THINKIN' UP A NEW DIRECTION...

I MEAN, SOMETHING ABOUT IT DID FEEL A LITTLE OFF, BUT...

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DUMPED THAT LAST DRAFT.

THE THING *WAS* ALMOST DONE.

Oh, for the love of...!

NO! NO MORE! I GOTTA FIND A WAY TO BREAK FREE!

WHAM

BUT I KNOW THE INSTANT I PICK IT UP AGAIN...

...ALL ITS FLAWS ARE GONNA COME RIGHT BACK INTO FOCUS!

UGH! I'M STUCK IN A NEVER-ENDING LOOP!

ROLLY-

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

YOU WORRY IF WHAT YOU MADE IS GOOD ENOUGH, OR IF IT HAS ANY VALUE AT ALL!

IT'S LIKE YOUR BRAIN STARTS POKIN' HOLES IN YOUR RESOLVE!

I can't take it anymore!

ALL THESE STUPID DOUBTS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, ON AND ON!

グラ

AND WHY ISN'T THERE A *NAME* FOR THIS PHENOMENON?!

WHAT IS THE DEAL?! WHY IS IT EVERY TIME YOU'RE ABOUT TO FINISH A PROJECT, YOU WANNA SCRAP EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE AND START ALL OVER?!

HHH

HHH!

カバッ

しば しば！

SPROING!

I KNOW! I JUST NEED A LITTLE BREATHER. THAT'S ALL!

HFF...

HFF...

...

AHHHHHHH!

FLAPPA FLAP

MAYBE A QUICK BATH...

AHHH...

HAVE A LITTLE SNACK...

TAKE A LITTLE WALK...

AHHHH...

PHEW...

だる
OL-LAG-

きお
GGIO

YUP. I'VE STRETCHED THIS OUT WAAAAAY LONGER THAN I MEANT TO.

THIS IS LIKE A FULL-ON **HIATUS.**

TOO MUCH OF A BREATHER.

OKAY. HANG ON.

TUP TUP TUP

NOT TO MENTION, THE DEADLINE'S COMIN' UP FASTER THAN I WANNA ADMIT.

I DON'T HAVE **TIME** TO BE LOUNGIN' AROUND LIKE THIS.

HAAAH... I'M IN REAL TROUBLE NOW.

I STILL DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT I'M GONNA DO.

GUH! I *KNOW* I DON'T, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT...

...THAT THE IDEAS AIN'T GONNA FLOW WHEN THE IDEAS AIN'T GONNA FLOW!

MAN, IT SURE IS NICE OUT TODAY.

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO?

THINK THEY SAID SOMETHIN' ABOUT VISITING A PASTURE TO FIX A SPELL ON THE WATERING HOLE...

Ahaha! That tickles!

THANK YA KINDLY, WITCHES!

BOY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULDA DONE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

YOU DID IT, MISTER WITCH!

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MISTER WITCH!

I THOUGHT FOR SURE WE'D FREEZE TO DEATH! WHY, IF YOU HADN'T COME WHEN YOU DID...

IT'S SO WARM...

MISTER WITCH!

I WASN'T ABLE TO SAVE ALL OF—

I DIDN'T, THOUGH.

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

GASP

LURCH

KINDA PUTS THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE, THOUGH. A LITTLE ARTIST'S BLOCK IS NOTHIN' IN COMPARISON.

TAK

GEEZ...

STREEETCH

HAVEN'T HAD *THAT* ONE IN A LONG TIME...

...COMES A CRUSHING SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND GUILT.

ALONG WITH THE POWER WE'RE ASKED TO GUARD AND CONCEAL...

SOMEDAY, THAT'S A REALITY THEY'LL HAVE TO FACE, TOO.

HEH. LOOK AT ME, GETTIN' ALL SOFT.

IT'S A LESSON I'M IN NO RUSH TO GIVE.

BUT THEY DON'T HAVE TO LEARN THAT YET.

GUESS IT'S JUST PART OF GROWIN' OLD.

DEAR ME. I WASN'T EXPECTING DUSK TO SET UPON US QUITE SO SOON.

THE DAYS CERTAINLY ARE GROWING SHORTER, AREN'T THEY?

LET US MAKE HASTE FOR HOME AND A WARM MEAL.

HUH...?
?
WHAT IS IT, COCO?
I SEE SOMETHING! WAY OUT BY THE ATELIER!
TMP TMP
FWSH
OH, WOW...

THIS SPELL'S AMAZING! WHAT'S IT FOR?!

OH, UH...

BOY... THAT'S A TOUGH ONE.

MASTER OLLY!

I GUESS IT'S TO, UH, HELP ME CLEAR MY MIND?

NO... THAT'S NOT QUITE IT...

?

NOTHIN', I GUESS.

IT EXISTS FOR NO REASON AT ALL.

JUST A LITTLE DOODLE I FELT LIKE SCRIBBLIN' DOWN.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS, ISN'T IT?! YOU GOT THE WORLD BEARIN' DOWN ON YOU, AND IT'S THE SILLY, WORTHLESS LITTLE PROJECTS THAT GET YOUR MIND ALL FIRED UP!

Mm-hm.

Yup.

AND FOR SOME REASON, IT'S THE *DOODLES* I CAN SIT DOWN AND *FOCUS* ON ALL EVENING LONG!

IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN YOUR INTENT, BUT I'D SAY THE CHANCE TO BEHOLD A SIGHT LIKE *THAT* GIVES IT REASON ENOUGH.

AND I WOULDN'T CALL IT WORTHLESS.

WELL, *I*, FOR ONE, QUITE ENJOY IT WHEN YOU PEN SPELLS OF THIS SORT.

YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT...

I GUESS THERE *IS* GOOD THAT COMES...

...EVEN WHEN NOTHING GOOD COMES TO MIND.

AS FABRICATED LIGHT LEAPS OVER GROUND...

AND FALSE FLAME FLITS THROUGH THE NIGHT...

...AND THE FLICKER REFLECTED IN THEIR EYES ARE TRUE.

...I PRAY THAT AT THE VERY LEAST, THIS TIME WE HAVE, THIS MOMENT...

MAY THIS BE A GLOW THEY'LL KEEP, LOCKED SAFE IN THEIR HEARTS TO ILLUMINATE THEIR WAY.

I HOPE, AND PRAY, AND PLEAD THAT IT MAY BE SO...

GRK...

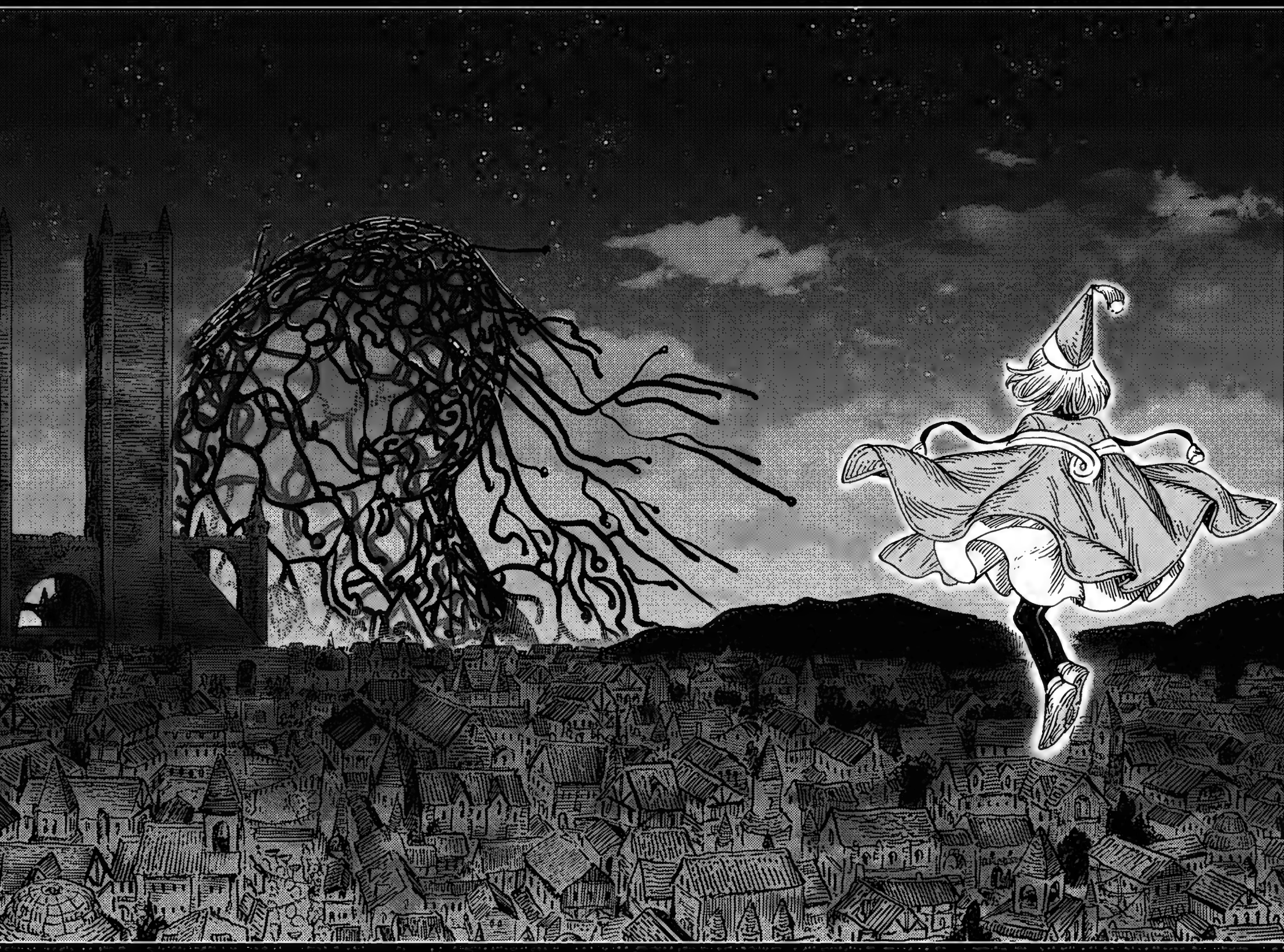
That's why you couldn't come along today, isn't it?

Oi

I TAKE IT YOU MUST HAVE FINISHED YOUR LATEST JOB? YOU SEEMED AWFULLY BUSY.

Intentions emerge and converge under blackened sky

With a helping hand from Agott, Coco's big debut in the Silver Eve Procession is a rousing success. But the celebration is cut short when a towering monster is spotted rising over Ezrest. As the silver, starless night sets in, king and witch must scramble to decide what course will keep the city and its residents safe. Meanwhile, Coco searches desperately for a way to save her grief-stricken friend—but will she make it in time?



Witch Hat Atelier Volume 12: Coming Soon!!

Witch Hat Atelier 11

Kodansha Digital Edition

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Chapter 62

SO... WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?

WHAT EXACTLY... ...IS THIS OTHER PLAN YOU CAME UP WITH?

WELL, IT'S LESS A FULL-BLOWN PLAN...

...AND MORE OF A MINOR ADDITION TO THE SIGNS, SEE?

チラ GLANCE

AND IF IT WORKS...

...I THINK THE CROWDS MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR SPELL.

GOOD THING WE'RE UP SO HIGH.

IF I CROUCH DOWN, THEY WON'T HAVE THE ANGLE TO CATCH SIGHT OF ME TWEAKING THE SEAL.

T...

YOU'RE UP ON STAGE, IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR SHOW...

...

TELL ME! I WANNA KNOW!

WHAT CAN I ADD TO MY SPELL TO MAKE IT BETTER?!

THAT'S YOUR STRENGTH, COCO. IT'S WHAT YOU HAVE THAT I DO NOT.

AND YET YOU WELCOME HER, SAYING, "YES, PLEASE HELP ME."

...SWOOPS IN TO INTERRUPT AND OFFER ADVICE YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR.

...AND ANOTHER GIRL FROM YOUR ATELIER...

KA-TUNK

...SOMETHING I HAVE THAT YOU **DON'T.**

...IT'S **MY** TURN TO SHARE. THIS TIME, I GET TO GIVE YOU...

SO NOW...

BUT EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO STAY WITH US, YOU'VE SHOWED ME HOW TO LEAN ON THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.

EARLIER, I KNOW I TOLD YOU...

...THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS DRAWING SPELLS FOR SOMEBODY *ELSE.*

(Hiding it, just in case.)

RMMJ

RMMJ

LISTEN, COCO.

BUT THAT DIDN'T START...

...UNTIL *AFTER*...

...YOU BECAME A WITCH.

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER? WHAT WAS IT LIKE WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...

...BEFORE YOU CAME TO JOIN US?

WHAT DID YOU DREAM OF USING MAGIC FOR *BACK THEN?*

...AT THE *VERY* BEGINNING...

ME...?

I GUESS...

...I WANTED TO FLY THROUGH THE SKY.

I WANTED TO LIGHT THE FIREPLACE WITH THE TAP OF A FINGER, AND PUT IT OUT THE SAME WAY!

I WANTED TO HAVE THE GROUND LIGHT UP BENEATH MY FEET WHEREVER I WENT!

I WANTED TO LEARN THE LANGUAGES OF THE ANIMALS AND TALK WITH THEM ALL DAY!

I WANTED TO... GO BACK IN TIME AND MEET MY FATHER...

I WANTED TO MAKE A WHOLE FEAST APPEAR ON THE TABLE IN A PUFF OF SMOKE.

I WANTED TO SPIN A RAINBOW INTO THREAD AND SEW A DRESS.

I GUESS I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT...

IN THE BEGINNING...

...ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS THE *EXCITEMENT* AND *WONDER* OF IT ALL.

...

I BET IF YOU PEEK DOWN THERE...

...YOU'LL FIND THAT THE FACES STARING UP...

...ARE SHINING WITH THE SAME WONDER YOU FELT BACK THEN.

SPLISH

!

IT'S SILVER EVE, COCO!

FRSH!!

THE PEOPLE ARE HERE FOR NEW IDEAS TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES...

...BUT THEY'RE HERE TO BE DAZZLED AND DELIGHTED, TOO!

THAT'S THE KIND OF MAGIC THEY'RE AFTER!

KA-SPLSH
THERE!
INTO THE SEWERS!
I DUNNO, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE!
SHE'S USED A WATER-SCULPTING SIGN!
AGOTT MUST HAVE ADDED IT TO THE SEALS ON THE VASE!
THE SIGNS FROM LAST NIGHT!
SO CUTE!
SO COOL!
WHOA! SO PRETTY!
THE WATER THAT FLEW OUT OF THE POT...
2RSH
...HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THAT WASTEWATER POOL, ALL BY ITSELF!
UWRSH
WHERE'S IT GOING?!
THE WATER! IT'S SHIFTING DIRECTION!
THAT'S NOT ALL I CHANGED.

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS POUR IT INTO THE POT...

...AND THE WATER'LL THROW *ITSELF* AWAY?!

WE WON'T HAVE TO LUG OUR DIRTY WATER TO THE WASTEWATER POOLS ANYMORE?

MURMUR

S-SO WHAT THIS MEANS IS...

HURRAH!!

ワァ...!!

I'M JUST EXCITED ABOUT WHAT THIS'LL DO FOR MY *BACK!* THROWING OUT WATER IS HARD WORK!

IF I NEVER HAVE TO LIFT A HEAVY POT AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON!

NO MORE TRUDGING OUT IN THE COLD DUR-ING WINTER!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS?! NO MORE SCRUBBING DOWN STINKY, SLIMY POTS AT HOME!

THE POOL NEAREST *MY* HOME IS ALL THE WAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL! IT'S EXHAUSTING MAKING THE TRIP!

THE ONE *I* USE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SQUARE! I HAD TO DRAG MY POTS THROUGH THE CROWDS!

DADDY!
MOMMY!

FWIP

Ten-four!

GET THAT FLAG IN THE AIR, MISTER! ON THE DOUBLE!

ALREADY ON IT, DEAR!

*WH...? THEY'RE VOLUNTEER-ING TO DO **CHORES**?!*

IF WE GET ONE OF *THOSE* IN OUR HOUSE...

...CAN *I* BE IN CHARGE OF THROWING THE WATER OUT?!

HEY, NO FAIR! I WANNA DO IT!

MASTER, LOOK! THE FLAGS!

!

SST

SST

SST

SHE DID IT!

YOU PULLED IT OFF, COCO!

LOOK! LOOK AT ALL THOSE FLAGS...!

WE DID IT!

WE REALLY DID IT!

AND IT'S ALL 'CAUSE OF *YOUR* AMAZING IDEA... WAY TO SNAG IT, AGOTT.

NOT JUST FOR THE PEOPLE IT STANDS TO BENEFIT...

...BUT FOR THE PEOPLE I HOPE TO SEE USE IT, TOO!

I SEE IT, NOW.

I NEEDED TO MAKE MY SPELL FOR *EVERYONE!*

OTHERWISE, IT MIGHT NOT GET ITS CHANCE...

...TO MAKE ANYONE HAPPY AT ALL!

!

...IT *ALSO* NEEDS TO BE FOR THE WITCH...

...WHO *MADE* IT.

AND DON'T FORGET...

THAT'S RIGHT.

...THAT YOU AGONIZED OVER AND POURED YOUR SOUL INTO...

WHEN YOU STEP BACK...

...AND LOOK AT THE SPELL...

DON'T FORGET. WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING FOR *EVERYONE*, THAT HAS TO INCLUDE *YOU*.

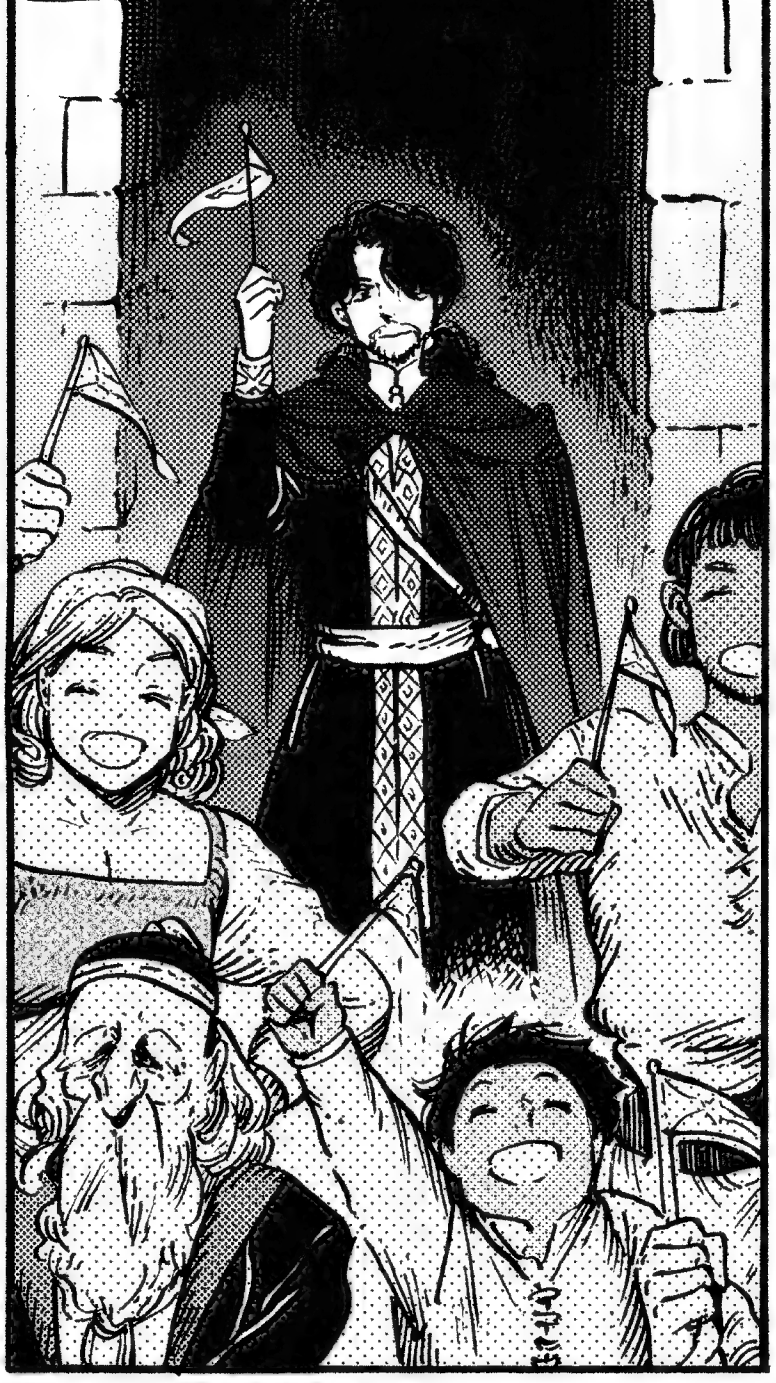
...IT HAD BETTER MAKE *YOU* HAPPY, TOO.

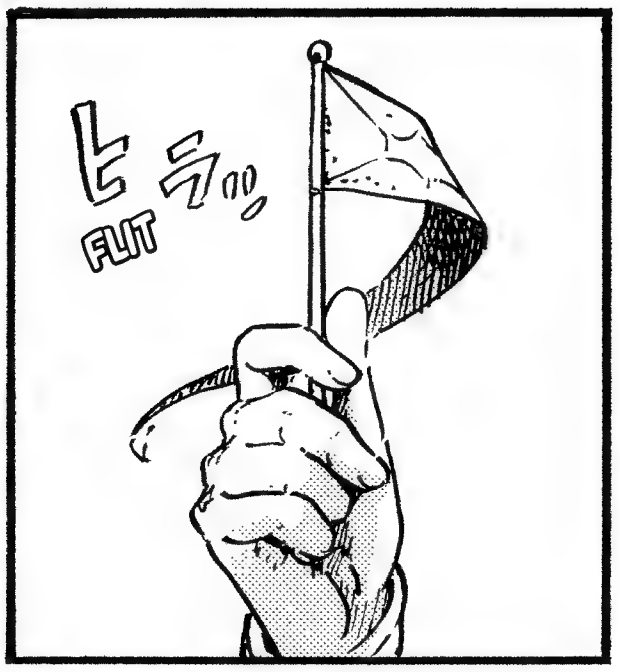
...THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHARE WHAT I HAVE PLENTY TO GIVE.

IF COCO'S LIABLE TO FORGET THAT...

I'LL SHOW HER HOW TO THINK OF THINGS IN TERMS OF HERSELF.

BECAUSE THAT'S THE PART OF ME THAT MAKES ME WHO I AM!

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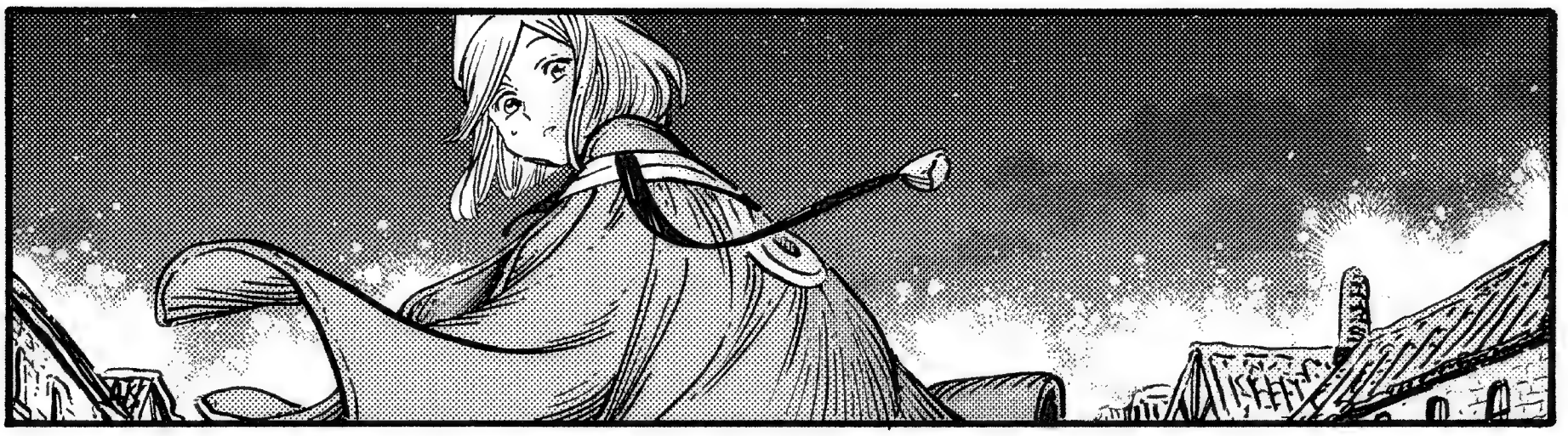

Straight ahead!
LOOK!

COCO!

COCO, PAY ATTENTION!
Well done, Coco!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

KRAKL

IT'S HIM!

THE PENINSULAR KING!

HE'S THE ONE...

...WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE CUSTAS AND DAGDA!

GASP

!!

...THEN THAT SHOULD BE THE BOX WHERE THE WISE ONES ARE SITTING, ALONG WITH—

HUH...?

IF THAT'S THE KING, AND THOSE ARE THE FIVE RULERS...

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY OWN STAGE!

UH!

I, UM...!

WOB ワ!? ?!!

BLE ラ!!

TILT

KER-KRASH

KRASH

WH...?

HFF...

HFF...

THAT WAS *CLOSE!*

ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?!

S-SORRY ...!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU PEOPLE?! WHY THE SUDDEN STOP?!

MASTER OLLY!

BFFF
BFFF
TRMBL
TRMBL
WINCE
BFFF
I-I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...!
IT'S THE ELDROXEN! THEY WON'T BUDGE!
They're usually so mild-mannered!
Eeep! Come back!
BFFFFF
I'M NOT EVEN CERTAIN I *REMEMBER* THE LAST TIME I SAW AN AGITATED ELDROX...
HOW PECULIAR... THE WHOLE HERD IS TRYING TO WREST FREE OF THE STAGES.
NO. WAIT.
THEY'RE *FRIGHTENED.*
BUT...
...FRIGHT-ENED OF *WHAT?*

FWUMF

COCO!

NO! COME BACK!

FWRSH

GRIT !!

!

IT'S CUSTAS!

WH...

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

IS MAGIC USED TO MAKE STUFF LIKE *THAT?*

SHRP
SQRM
SHP
ONE MORE IGNORANT FOOL...
ZWRM
SLP
SHP
SHP
SHRP
...WHO NEVER STOPPED TO PONDER *WHY* THE TABOOS ARE IN PLACE.

CHAPTER 62 ♦ END